

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A home delivery service system, said system comprising:

a mailbox having a lock to lock said mailbox;

an external device in communication with said mailbox which controls opening and closing of said lock in accordance with a signal received from the external device;

a key input unit in communication with said external device such that a set of figures can be input into said key input unit and said figures are transmitted to said external device;

a web service provider in communication with an external communication network, and having registered therein a password transmitted from a communication device in communication with the external communication network;

a storage unit for storing the password; and

a data processing/authentication unit in communication with the mailbox, and when the set of input figures transmitted to the mailbox match the password stored in the storage unit said data processing/authentication unit transmits an open-signal to the mailbox.

2. The home delivery service system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic mail transmitting unit which sends out a first

electronic mail to the communication device based on a response signal from the mailbox.

3. The home delivery service system of claim 2, wherein the lock is opened in accordance with the open-signal.

4. The home delivery service system of claim 3, wherein when the lock is closed, the mailbox transmits a close-signal to the data processing/authentication unit, and the data processing/authentication unit controls the electronic mail transmitting unit in accordance with the close-signal as received so that a second electronic mail is sent out to the communication device.

5. The home delivery service system of claim 4, wherein the mailbox comprises:

a data converting unit which communicates with the data processing/authentication unit;

a locking device which controls the opening and closing of the lock;

an input unit which receives the set of figures; and

a control signal converting unit which interprets and interfaces signals between the locking device and the input unit, and the locking device and the data converting unit.

6. The home delivery service system of claim 1, wherein the mailbox and the data processing/authentication unit are connected through a power line, to carry out a power line communication.

7. A home delivery service method, comprising the steps of:

placing a mailbox having a lock in communication with an external device;

transmitting a password from a communication device to an external communication network;

storing said password;

inputting a set of figures into an input unit in communication with said mailbox;

comparing said figures to said password; and

transmitting an open-signal to said mailbox if said set of figures matches said password.

8. The home delivery service method of claim 7, further comprising the step of sending out a first electronic mail to the communication device based on a response signal from the mailbox.

9. The home delivery service method of claim 8, wherein the lock is un-locked in response to the open-signal.

10. The home delivery service method of claim 9, wherein, when the lock is closed, a second electronic mail is sent out to the communication device to inform that the lock is locked.

11. The home delivery service method of claim 7, wherein said external device transmits said open-signal to said mailbox.

12. The home delivery service method of claim 7, wherein said external device compares said set of figures and said password.

13. The home delivery service method of claim 7, further comprising opening said mailbox and depositing a parcel in said mailbox after said open-signal is transmitted.

14. The home delivery service method of claim 7, further comprising opening said mailbox and removing a parcel from said mailbox after said open-signal is transmitted.

15. The home delivery service system of claim 1, wherein said external device is a home gateway.

16. The home delivery service system of claim 1, wherein said external device comprises said storage unit.

17. The home delivery service system of claim 1, wherein said external devices stores an electronic mail address of said communication device.